



ON THE INSIDE

LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport

Level I Trauma Center Re-verified; Pediatric Level I Status Added

The Level I Trauma Center at LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport has a new distinction: Level I status as a pediatric trauma center in addition to re-verification as a Level I Adult Trauma Center by the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma.

In 1991, LSUHSC-S became the first verified Level I Trauma Center in Louisiana as well as the first state-licensed Level I Trauma Center in Louisiana.

The recent re-verification by the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma was based on the findings from a site visit last November that reviewed trauma services at LSUHSC-S.

Level I Trauma Centers like LSUHSC-S can treat the most complex trauma injuries. Verification is a confirmation that trauma services at LSUHSC-S meet the strict national standards for a Level I Trauma Center developed by the American College of Surgeons.

“Our recognition as a Level I Adult and Pediatric Trauma Center is the result of the dedication, hard work and even sacrifice of everyone involved”

Among the requirements for a Level I Trauma Center are the round-the clock, in-hospital presence of a multidisciplinary team including emergency room physicians, nurses, trauma surgeons, anesthesiologists, orthopaedic surgeons, operating room teams, radiologic technologists, blood bank personnel, laboratory personnel, respiratory therapists and social service personnel.

In addition to direct patient care requirements, Level I Trauma Centers must conduct both research and community education.

“The patient—and the patient’s family—is focus of all that we do,” said Cuthbert Simpkins, M.D., Chief of Trauma Surgery and Professor of Surgery at LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport.

“Our recognition as a Level I Adult and Pediatric Trauma Center is the result of the dedication, hard work and even sacrifice of everyone involved,” he said. ■

Dr. Davis Appointed to FDA Drug Safety Committee

Terry C. Davis, Ph.D., Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics at LSUHSC-S, is one of 13 voting members appointed to a four-year term on the Food and Drug Administration’s Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) Drug Safety and Risk Management Advisory Committee.

The committee advises the FDA on risk management, risk communication and quantitative selective Non steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs evaluation of reports of drugs for human use.

Dr. Davis was appointed because of her risk communication research in childhood and adult vaccines, her research in patient understanding of prescription drug labels and her expertise in health communication and health literacy.

The first meeting Dr. Davis attended, February 8 -9, made national news on the front pages of *New York Times*, *Washington Post* and *USA Today*. Members had recommended that several drugs widely used to treat Attention Deficient Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) should carry a prominent ‘black box’ warning because of reports that they may have caused serious complications or sudden death.

During the second day the committee was given updates on FDA actions on the COX-2 (NSAIDs) and the risk management program for the Isotretinoin (Accutane) products. Dr. Davis characterized the meeting as “fascinating” and educational. She said she learned a lot about the politics, policy and economics of prescription medication information and use in the U.S. and in the E.U.

In addition to the 13 regular voting members, up to 10 temporary voting members and consultants are on the committee. The voting members are selected by the FDA for their expertise in risk communication, risk management, drug safety, or medical, behavioral and biological sciences related to risk management and drug abuse. Temporary voting members are appointed from other FDA scientific and technical advisory committees; consultants with specific expertise are appointed as needed.

Meetings are held four times a year. The committee is given numerous articles and reports to read in preparation for the meetings. During the highly structured sessions, conflict-of-interest statements are read for each member. FDA scientists give epidemiological, pharmacotherapy and risk presentations. Public comments are heard from pharmaceutical companies, patients’ families and special interest groups. ■

Children’s Hospital Achieves Life-Saving First for Local Child

To meet 10-year-old Joe Jackson Jr. today, it’s hard to image that earlier this year he was in Pediatric Intensive Care at the Children’s Hospital of LSUHSC-S fighting for his life or that he made medical history as the first child in the world to be treated using a procedure that LSUHSC-S doctors helped to develop for adults in the 1990s.

Pediatric critical care physicians at the Children’s Hospital modified the adult life-support procedure, Arteriovenous Carbon Dioxide Removal (AVCO2R), and used it to remove deadly carbon dioxide from Joe’s blood. The treatment saved Joe’s life following a severe asthma attack, they said.

Steven Conrad, M.D., Professor of Medicine, Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine; and Keith Scott, M.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine, Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine, were the critical care doctors who suggested using the life-saving procedure to Joe’s mother.

Pachausa Jackson is grateful to the medical team who saved her son’s life. “I thank the Lord for the doctors,” she said.

AVCO2R is a variation of Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) used for patients with lung failure—including severe asthma—who can get enough oxygen but



Steven Conrad, M.D., Ph.D.



Keith Scott, M.D.

cannot remove carbon dioxide.

AVCO2R uses a simplified circuit that does not have a blood pump. Instead, blood is pumped through the artificial lung from an artery by the patient’s own blood pressure.

It is based on the procedure which underwent clinical trials and development at LSUHSC-S in the late 1990s. Dr. Conrad was active in development of ECMO, which LSUHSC-S has provided since 1993. LSUHSC-S remains the only facility in the region offering the life-saving procedure. The next nearest centers for pediatric patients are Dallas, Little Rock, and New Orleans. ■

Conference to Reflect on Hurricane’s Health Lessons

Registration is under way for “Learning from Katrina: Tough Lessons in Preparedness and Emergency Response,” a public health grand rounds to be presented on March 31 from 1 to 2 p.m. in Room 1-423 of the LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport Medical Library.

The teleconference will focus on the lessons learned and share the experiences of public health leaders and community responders following Hurricane Katrina.

To register, go to <http://publichealthgrandrounds.unc.edu/partreg/index.htm> and follow the instructions for “New Participants.”

Online registration, program information, and a list of currently available broadcast sites (including LSUHSC-S) are located on the Web site.

Registration is free, but eligible participants must register online in order to receive continuing education credit.

Dr. Bocchini Assumes Lead Role in National Group



Joseph Bocchini, M.D.

Joseph Bocchini, M.D., Professor and Head of the LSUHSC-S Department of Pediatrics, has been named Vice Chairman of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Committee on Infectious Diseases (COID).

Dr. Bocchini has been a committee member for three and a half years and his term extends through 2008.

As vice chairman, Dr. Bocchini will have administrative and oversight responsibility

for the activities of the committee assigned by the chairman.

The Committee on Infectious Diseases monitors current developments in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of infectious diseases and reports these to the membership with pertinent recommendations.

It also prepares updated editions of the *Red Book: Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases* and develops and reviews policy recommendations on the use of vaccines. ■

LSUHSC-S Pathology Researchers Win Awards at Meeting

Three members of the LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport Department of Pathology won awards at the recent United States-Canadian Academy of Pathology annual meeting.

John Keeling, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Fellow, won the Renal Pathology Society Lilliane Striker Young Investigator Award. The prize was based on his work presented at the American Society of Nephrology in Philadelphia last November.

Dr. Keeling’s research dealt with ways to suppress the production of an abnormal protein that can lead to eventual kidney damage in humans. His research showed how a specific enzyme can be utilized to break down the protein.

The work was done in collaboration with Guillermo A. Herrera, M.D., former Professor and Head of the Department of Pathology, and the technical assistance of Ron Austin, Pathology Research Assistant.

Also winning awards at the meeting were X. Eric Wei, M.D., fourth-year resident, and Rodney Shackelford, M.D., third-year resident.

Dr. Wei received the Papanicolaou Award of the Papanicolaou Society of Cytopathology for his research studied a gene marker as a useful tool to distinguish cancer cells from benign conditions in lung cell samples. Elba Turbat-Herrera, Ph.D., former Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Mary Lowery-Nordberg, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Pathology collaborated on the research.

Dr. Shackelford was awarded a Certificate of Merit of the Stowell-Orbison Award for his work which examined the effect of fungal-produced cell poisons on cell DNA repair. Collaborating on this project was Dr. Lowery-Nordberg and Anping Chen, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology. ■

Human Resources Corner

The recent revision of the bylaws of the LSU Board of Supervisors included new procedures for creating and filling unclassified and faculty positions and for granting raises when salary levels exceed a certain amount.

Personnel actions that now must be approved by the Board of Supervisors before a candidate can be hired and begin working include establishment of certain new positions, the filling of certain vacant positions, and salary increases when specific appropriated dollar amounts are exceeded.

In addition, personnel actions requiring advance Board approval must include a justification letter as part of the review and approval process.

For details or specific questions regarding this process, please contact Chasidy Guthrie in the Unclassified Staffing office at 318-675-5254, or cmangh@lsuhsc.edu. ■

Hospital Administrator Applauds Employees

Our employees are to be commended for their efforts in reporting to work during the recent inclement weather. Many bridges and streets were impassable and frozen over yet we experienced only minor staffing issues. By midday Monday all staffing matters were resolved. This dedication and commitment demonstrated by our employees is a reflection of years of excellence that is recognized statewide.

I heard several stories in which employees that rely upon the public transit system actually walked to work. This level of commitment is exemplary!

Our thanks and appreciation is extended to all university employees for their commitment.



Copier Scam Advisory

Any caller asking questions about the copy machine in your work area is likely part of a scam. Do not give the caller information.

Several departments have recently been contacted about copier supply orders. However, LSUHSC-S is under a copier facilities management contract with Stuarts Inc. and no one from Stuarts will call you asking for the model number of your copier because they already know it.

If you receive such a call, please forward it to Tammy Jernigan, Assistant Director of Auxiliary Enterprises and Services, at 675-7650.

She advises never giving unsolicited callers your name, copier model number, department or shipping address, as they may use the information to ship LSUHSC-S products at inflated prices. ■

Medical Library Provides More Access to Research Tool

The Medical Library of the LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport announces a change to a well-utilized research tool.

Journal Citation Reports (JCR), previously available in the library on microfiche, is now available on LSUHSC-S computers online through the library's databases menu, at <http://lib.sh.lsuhs.edu/databases/databases.php>.

JCR, a unique resource that analyzes citation data from 7,500 scientific and technical journals from 3,300 publishers in 60 countries, permits researchers to identify the most frequently cited journals in a field, and lists the impact factor for journals that have been published for at least three years. ■

Reach Out and Read Celebrates Dr. Seuss' Birthday

To mark this month's birthday of children's author Dr. Seuss, the LSUHSC-S Reach Out and Read program conducted a special program for young clinic patients on Thursday, March 2.

Readers included Elizabeth Joyce, wife of award-winning children's illustrator/author William Joyce. Mrs. Joyce is the daughter of the late Ralph Baucum, M.D., a highly respected pediatric cardiologist who was a long-time Professor of Pediatrics at LSUHSC-S.

Other guest readers were members of the Red Hat Society of Waskom, Texas. ■

Current and past issues of "On the Inside" can be viewed on the LSUHSC-S web site at <http://www.sh.lsuhs.edu/our.html>

LSUHS Foundation Program Addresses Women's Issues

The LSUHS Foundation celebrated American Heart Month, with a sold out crowd at their February Wellness Lunch and Learn! Pratap Reddy, M.D., Professor of Medicine and Chief of the Section of Cardiology, engaged the group of more than 75 with a highly informative presentation on the prevention of heart disease in women.

Dr. Reddy informed the group that cardiovascular disease is the number one killer of women, claiming more lives than the next six most common causes of death combined. He urged women to quit smoking and improve their diet as steps to decreasing their risk for heart-related diseases.

The next Foundation Wellness Lunch and Learn will be held Wednesday, May 10 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Cambridge Club. Seth Berney, M.D., Professor of Medicine and Director of the Center of Excellence for Arthritis and Rheumatology, will share his expert advice about arthritis.

According to the Arthritis Foundation, 66 million Americans are currently affected by this chronic health problem.

The luncheon cost is \$10 per person. For more information, please call the LSUHS Foundation at (318) 675-5002 or visit www.lsuhsfoundation.org. ■



L to R: Shirley Roberson, Director of Multicultural Affairs, LSUHSC-S; Tindell Lumen, program attendee; Karen Kennedy, Corporate and Foundation Relations Associate, LSUHS Foundation; Shobha Reddy, wife of Dr. Pratap Reddy; Lisa S. Babin, President and CEO, LSUHS Foundation at the recent Foundation "Lunch and Learn" program.

Dr. Wood Presents Findings on New Fibromyalgia Treatment

A clinical trial to study the effectiveness of a drug in treating fibromyalgia that was headed by Patrick Wood, M.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine and Comprehensive Care, has been completed on 147 patients.

Dr. Wood, currently completing a fellowship at McGill University in Canada, is among the leaders of clinical research of Xyrem, originally approved by the Food and Drug Administration to treat for cataplexy, the sudden loss of muscle tone in patients with narcolepsy.

"The pain of fibromyalgia is notoriously difficult to treat. The results from the trial are quite encouraging," according to Dr. Wood. He presented findings at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Pain Management in San Diego in February.

Fibromyalgia syndrome is a chronic pain illness characterized by widespread musculoskeletal aches, pains and stiffness, soft tissue tenderness, general fatigue and sleep disturbances. The most common sites of pain include the neck, back, shoulders, pelvic girdle and hands, but any body part can be involved.

Approximately four million Americans, primarily females, are estimated to be affected. Fibromyalgia affects women three times more often than men. ■

E.A. Conway Employee of the Month



Kathy Gates

Kathy Gates was the E. A. Conway Medical Center's Employee of the Month for February.

Ms. Gates has been employed at the hospital for 15 years and is a Licensed Practical Nurse on the Medicine Unit.

She received her certification as a Licensed Practical Nurse in 1990 from Delta Ouachita Vocational Technical School. ■

New Faculty

Eric Chen, M.D., Assistant Professor – Clinical, Pediatrics
Debra G. Elliott, M.D., Associate Professor – Clinical, Neurology
Jamie Ross, M.D., Associate Professor – Clinical, Medicine

Participants Prepare for Parkinson's Run

Runners and walkers will converge on C. Bickham Dickson Park in Shreveport on March 4 for the fourth Annual Parkinson's 5K Walk/Run.

The half-mile fun run begins at 8 a.m. and the 5K starts at 8:30 a.m.

Entry fee is \$16 (\$20 on race day). Student entry fee is \$10. Participants may register at Sportspectrum, 7607 Youree Drive, or www.sportspectrumusa.com.

The fundraiser also seeks to heighten public awareness of and provide public education about Parkinson's disease. Money raised will help the Parkinson's Disease Resource of Northwest Louisiana fund its Eicher Award, which supports disease-related basic science research.

Richard Zweig, M.D., Professor of Neurology, is medical director of the Parkinson's Disease Resource of Northwest Louisiana.

Recipients conduct local research involving molecular biological and other basic science research related to Parkinson's disease.

Other Parkinson's Disease Resource initiatives include publication of a quarterly newsletter, assisting local and regional support groups, and presenting an annual symposium for individuals with Parkinson's.

Allergy and Immunology Continues Accreditation

The LSUHSC-S Allergy and Immunology fellowship program has received continued full accreditation for four years for a maximum complement of four fellows.

The Allergy/Immunology Residency Review Committee of the Accreditation Committee for Graduate Medical Education Residency Review Committee granted the full accreditation on the basis of the quality of the program's teaching conferences, variety of clinical material, research productivity, and consistent 100 percent pass rate by program graduates on the American Board of Allergy and Immunology certifying examination.

The program receives 80-100 applications for the two positions it has available each year, according to Sami Bahna, M.D., Dr. PH, Professor, Department of Medicine and Pediatrics, and fellowship program director.

He cited the program's national recognition and its emerging competitive stature as measures of its strength. ■

Celebration of Women Week Activities Planned

The Feist-Weiller Cancer Center (FWCC) of LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport will host its annual free "War on Cancer" luncheon Friday, March 17, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in conjunction with Celebration of Women Week.

Those registering for the luncheon can select one of five topics:

Session 1: "Colon Cancer Clinical Trials at FWCC" with Glenn Mills, M.D., Professor of Medicine, FWCC Clinical Research Director.

Session 2: "Genetics in Cancer" with Mary Lowery-Nordberg, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pathology and FWCC Director of Molecular Pathology, and Mary Futch, R.N., Cancer Genetics Educator.

Session 3: "Why did I get Cancer?" with Gary Von Burton, M.D., Professor of Medicine, and Co-director FWCC Breast Cancer, Sarcoma and Brain Tumor Program.

Session 4: "St. Jude Affiliate Clinic Overview and Tour" with Majed Jeroudi, M.D., Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Head of FWCC Pediatric Oncology, and Cheryl Fernandez, R.N., pediatric oncology nurse.

Session 5: "Arts in Medicine" with Jane Crandell-Glass, Project Coordinator.

Free parking will be available at Parkview Baptist Church, 3206 Samford, adjacent to the LSUHSC-S campus. A shuttle will drop participants off within sight of the registration table where they will pick up box lunches.

Participants should arrive at 11:30 a.m. to receive their lunches and directions to the room for the session they selected.

For more information and to pre-register with your topic choice, contact Anne Higdon at 318-813-1423. ■

On the Inside is published monthly by the Office of Information Services for employees, students and friends of the LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport. Please contact Derek Daniel, editor, at 318-675-5408 or ddani1@lsuhsc.edu to submit information, comments or suggestions.